



Charlotte Community Association, Inc.

"A Community That Cares"

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2024

Roger Robach Community Center

Attendance: CCA Board of Directors: Jose Peo, President; Tom Bruce, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Tony Micciche, Director; Lindy Litwak, Director; John Kabrovski, Director; Jon Cahill, Director. Additionally, there were about 25 people in the audience.

CITY OF ROCHESTER UPDATES

Rochester Police Department (RPD) – Crime Prevention Officer Vinny Agnone and Lt. Nicole Tamburello reported that there was one motor vehicle theft on Leroy Street that was a case of a person “borrowing” a friend’s car and then not returning it. There was another report of a stolen car taken from the RGH parking garage that ended up located on River Heights. The perpetrator was a career criminal, and the car’s owner left her phone in it and was able to track the car’s whereabouts. The audience was reminded to watch out for increases in crime during the upcoming holiday season and to be extra vigilant.

Rochester Fire Department (RFD) Engine 19 – Lt. Fissare reported that they responded to a kitchen fire in one of the high rises. The Marine One fireboat has responded to 40+ calls for water rescues. The fireboat was removed from the water today for winter storage and will return in the spring. The Canadian Coast Guard is doing training on Lake Ontario, so flares can be seen 15 miles out from shore.

Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) – Anna Keller reported that Neighbors In Action (NIA) is a new program to use grant funding to support businesses, neighborhood associations and block clubs. She’s looking for ideas. There will be a public meeting this Thursday, November 7th at 5:30 at the Service Center, 400 Dewey Avenue.

City Council NW Representative – Bridget Monroe gave updates from Neighborhood & Business Development: Port Terminal Building 2nd floor restaurant space rental still in process; there have been issues for the vendor getting a liquor license that may take another four months to complete. The Marina Overlook Site development is moving along; a Memo of Understanding with the developer is in process. The River Street Realignment project is also in process; purchase of a property in the proposed construction zone is being finalized. The Port Terminal Building needs some rooftop mechanical repairs. Bridget will look into getting us a digital sign at the firehouse that would be used to advertise events (the digital sign already there is for emergency purposes only). We also asked her to help us get white lights on Lake Avenue and Ontario Beach Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES / COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Moment of Silence was observed for Tim O’Brien, a longtime CCA member who recently passed.

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society – Fred Amato reported that the lighthouse is now closed for the season and reopens in May to October 2025. There will be a sale on merchandise and Christmas wreaths on December 6-7 from 1-4 pm. On October 17 the lighthouse was honored by the Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame. Donations were received of a refrigerator and snowblower.

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Ontario Beach Park Program Committee (OBPPC) – Fred Amato reported that the Polar Plunge will be on Sunday, February 2nd at noon, and Winter Fest will be on Saturday, February 1st. He invited CCA to have a table to sell snacks and merchandise. The Jazz Concert Series is winding down with a final concert for the season on Tuesday, November 12th at Tropix. OBPPC is opening a new office space on the 2nd floor of the Port Terminal Building. The room can be rented for meetings; CCA was invited to use it.

Veteran's Day Concert – Tom Bruce reported that 75 Stutson Street will be hosting a free concert for the community on Monday, November 11th at 7 pm.

Petition Against the Installation of an Irish Immigrants Memorial at Ontario Beach Park – Kathy Amato and Kevin Jones of Beach Avenue are starting a petition to collect neighborhood signatures in protest of the proposed installation. They offered for people to take sheets to collect signatures in their own neighborhoods. They attended a public meeting over the summer and then again recently and do not agree with Ontario Beach Park being the location for this project. They want to preserve the natural view and greenspace. They also disapprove of honoring one specific nationality, and feel that to do so opens the door for other groups to request similar space for their own memorials. Kevin reported that the County sent out a questionnaire to people not from all over the county—people not necessarily from Charlotte or with any knowledge of the proposed location/impact to the environment.

Suzanne Phillips also attended the recent public meeting hosted by the Monroe County Legislature. She said that only 2 people spoke in favor of the project out of about 50 people who attended. Most were against it. She read a statement from Jean Gottschalk, a resident off Beach Avenue who is against the proposed project.

Michelle Cacia also attended the recent public meeting and said that unfavorable opinions not in support of the project were met with disdain.

Virginia Kobylarz, who is a local historian and long-time activist very involved in the decades-long evolution of the Charlotte neighborhood, reminded everyone of the extensive charrette and vision plan process that we did that should always be used to inform future development opportunities. The Irish Memorial did not go through that process nor is it part of the recommendations for improvements at Ontario Beach Park that came out of the charrette study.

CCA President Jose Peo said that the CCA Board sent two letters explaining our stance on behalf of the community, based on comments the audience has made over three different meetings where the proposed memorial was discussed. He said it feels like the project is being pushed on us after the fact rather than being involved from the beginning concept. We were not approached for comment until after a formal design was created.

Fred Amato, also a long-time activist for Charlotte, said the same thing happened with the naming of the bridge connecting Charlotte to Irondequoit. He thinks the CCA should be firm in rejecting the proposal.

Board members are willing to support whatever the community wants but feel that we should prepare ourselves for this project to be pushed through. The Monroe County Legislature will eventually be asked

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to vote to approve it. A suggestion was made that we find out when that might happen and the community should go enmasse to speak to the Legislature to reconsider before they vote.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS – CCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

President – Jose Peo (unopposed) wins with 17 affirmative votes

Secretary – No candidates

Director (3 seats) – Jon Cahill, Tony Micciche and Sue Hyde (all unopposed) win with 17 votes each

MEMBERS' VOTE FOR APPROVAL – BYLAWS REVISION

Proposal from Nominating & Governance Committee – Passed with 17 affirmative votes

BOARD REPORTS

President's Report – Jose Peo pleaded for volunteers to fill two key positions on the board: Secretary and Communications Officer. He would like to start up a new digital newsletter that would require someone who can make it happen. The future direction of the CCA is to create exciting events that bring people together to create community and support local businesses. As a fundraiser, we are selling Charlotte t-shirts and sweatshirts that can be purchased at Vine & Tap.

Secretary's Report – Sue Roethel reminded everyone that meeting minutes are posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report – RoseMary Shaw reported that the beginning October balance was \$13,004 and ending balance was \$13,147. We received a \$175 donation from an anonymous donor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Beautification – Linda Paruta, chair of this committee was present; thank you, Linda, for keeping Charlotte beautiful year after year!

Communications

Community Development

Finance

Nominating & Governance

Programming – Jon Cahill said that this committee meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 at Vine & Tap. The November meeting will be this Thursday the 7th

Youth Engagement

8:15 pm Adjournment

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/18/24 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm, Vine & Tap
12/2/24 General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
12/6/24 Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6:30 pm, Engine 19 Firehouse
12/16/24 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm, Tropix

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